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The Library Assistant

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

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EDITED BY H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL.

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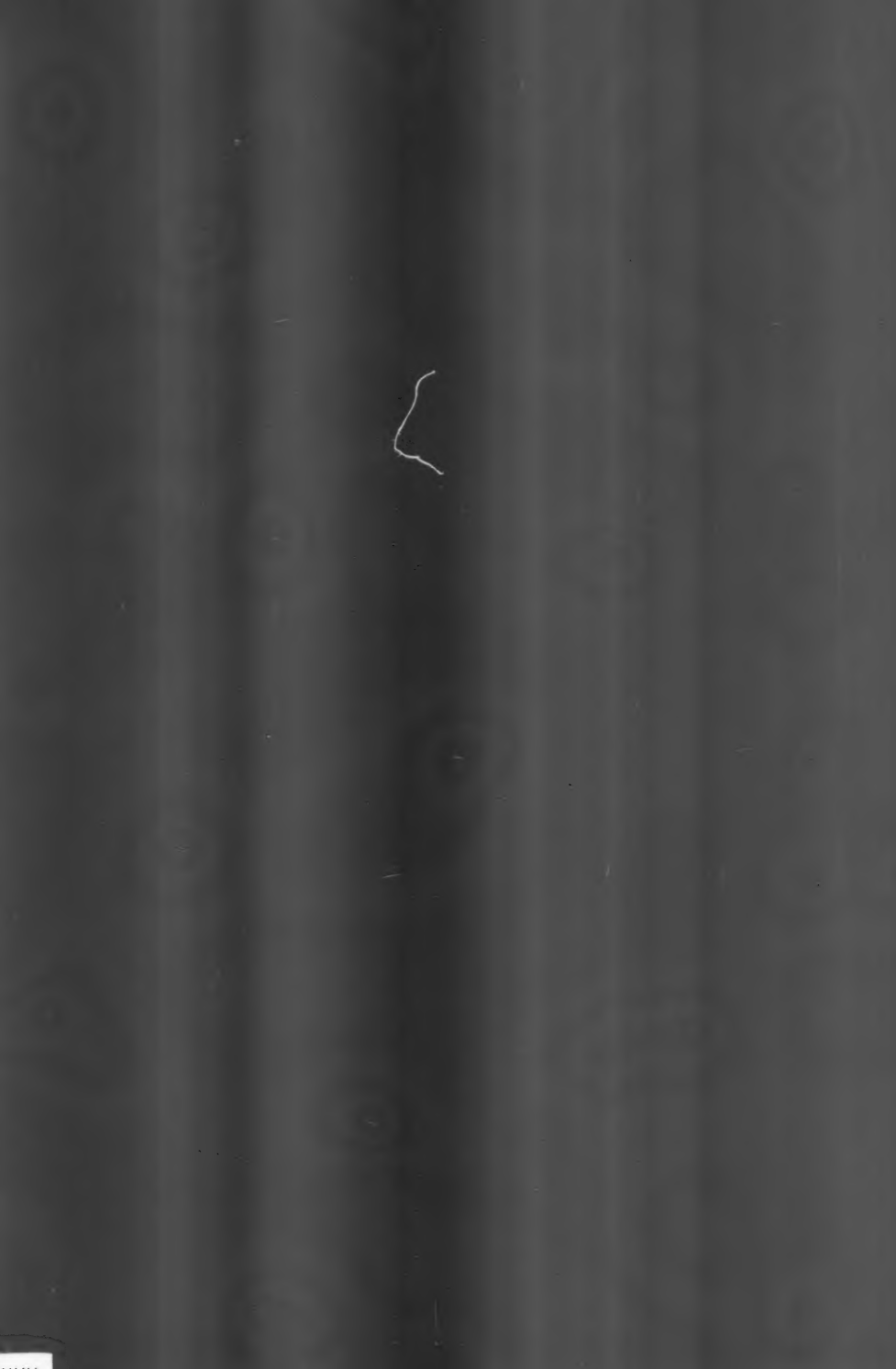
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Published Monthly.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorial	4
Residual Errors in Great English Authors.	By DR. J. RENDEL HARRIS	5
Increasing Facilities for Borrowing Books.	By W. G. FRY	...	...	...	...	11
Proceedings: November Meeting	...	...	...	...	...	16
December Meeting	...	...	...	...	...	16
Midland Branch	...	...	...	...	...	18
South Wales Branch	...	...	...	...	...	19
Edward Edwards' Centenary Dinner	...	...	...	...	...	19
Appointments and Changes	...	...	...	...	...	20

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

JANUARY MEETING.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Lent and Summer Term will be held at the **Central Public Library, Fulham, S.W.**, on **Wednesday, 8th January**. The Programme will be as follows:—

6.30 p.m. Light refreshments by kind invitation of the Fulham Libraries Staff Guild.

After this the members will have an opportunity of inspecting this, the most recent of the large London public libraries.

7.30 p.m. A CONFERENCE ON THE SECOND EASTER SCHOOL, to which contributions will be made as follows:—

I. International Visits: Achievements and Possibilities (with Lantern Slides). By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS.

II. Reading of the MacAlister Prize Essays. "A Professional Account of the Second Easter School."

(a) By HENRY A. SHARP, Fulham Public Libraries.

(b) By HARRY DIXON, Croydon Public Libraries.

(c) By WILLIAM MCGILL, Islington Public Libraries.

III. The **Paris Album** of records, reminiscences, photographs, and other matter relating to the School, will be exhibited.

Members are requested to note the alteration in the place and date of Meeting. The Fulham Central Library is situated in the Fulham Road, within two minutes' walk of Parson's Green Station, and five minutes from Walham Green Station on the District Railway. Motor buses from the City to Putney pass the door. This promises to be one of the most interesting of recent meetings. The papers will reveal certain sides of library life not generally known, and they are interesting as being the best papers submitted in competition. The Lantern Slides will comprise many taken during the Easter School.

THE L.A.A. EASTER SCHOOL IN HOLLAND, MARCH 21-24, 1913.

The arrangements have provisionally been made for the **Third Annual Easter School and Excursion** to take place in the **Cities and Libraries of HOLLAND**, as follows:—

Leave **LONDON** on Thursday evening, March 20th, for **ROTTERDAM**, arriving

FRIDAY.

Proceed to **Dordrecht**, one of the finest old cities of Holland, and visit the Public Library, old church and other buildings.

Thence to **The Hague** and **Scheveningen**, spending the night at The Hague.

SATURDAY.

Visit the Royal Library, Public Library, Mauritshuis, and Picture Gallery.

Proceed to **Leyden** for Lunch, and visit the University, Public Library, etc.

Thence to **Amsterdam** to the Rijksmuseum and Picture Gallery first and then other places of interest and to spend the night.

SUNDAY.

Morning Service in the English Church; or, alternative, visit to Haarlem by electric car.

After lunch proceed to **Hilversum** to see the Public Library and thence to **Utrecht**, where after dinner a social meeting of Dutch and English librarians and assistants will be held in the Public Library.

MONDAY.

Visit University Library and after lunch proceed to Rotterdam for the boat leaving about 4 o'clock. Arrive in London early Tuesday morning.

The total cost is £3 10s. 0d.

The local arrangements are being made by a Dutch Committee, and as the work is exceptionally heavy in both countries, and is only possible if early application for membership is made, those desiring to join the excursion should send their names (together with a deposit of 5s. towards the total cost) to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL, The Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, with as little delay as possible. Final Programme and list of Members will be issued later.

Further particulars may be obtained from

The Central Library,
Town Hall, Croydon.

W. C. BERWICK SAYERS,
Honorary Secretary.

MIDLAND BRANCH: PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The **Third Annual Meeting** of the Midland Branch will be held in Birmingham on Wednesday, February 12th, 1913. A vacancy on the Committee will be filled, for which nominations are invited.

NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

The next meeting of this Branch will be held (by kind permission of Basil Anderton, Esq., M.A., Chief Librarian)

in the Central Public Library, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Wednesday, January 22nd, 1913.

Programme :—

2.45 p.m. Members will meet at Grey's Monument, and from there proceed by car to Football Ground, where a match will take place between teams represented by members North and South of the Tyne.

5.15 p.m. Tea by kind invitation of the Newcastle staff.

7.15 " Meeting of Committee.

7.30 " General meeting.

Member's Paper.—" Librarianship: Theoretical and Practical." By R. Lillie, Sub-Librarian, Gateshead.

Associate's Paper.—" The short story." By J. Crawley, Walker Branch Library, Newcastle.

Discussion.

Members will be notified later of further arrangements, and of any alteration in this programme.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The next meeting will be held at the Public Library, Hove, on Wednesday, January 22nd, 1913, by permission of the Hove Public Library Committee. Mr. J. W. Lister, Librarian of Hove, has been good enough to arrange for the members to visit the printing and bookbinding works of Messrs. Emery and Son, where opportunities will be given of inspecting linotype and monotype machines of the latest pattern, with demonstrations on the manufacture of process blocks; while Mr. Sayers has kindly offered to give a short talk on the L.A.A. Easter schools and excursions, illustrated with lantern slides.

The programme will be as follows:—

3 p.m. Assemble at Public Library, Hove; then proceed to visit Messrs. Emery and Son's Printing Works, by kind invitation of the proprietors.

4.30 p.m. Tea will be provided, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Lister, at their private residence, "Runcton," Old Shoreham Road (about 15 minutes' walk from the Library).

6.15 p.m. Meeting at the Library. Col. Nourse, Chairman of Hove Public Library Committee, has kindly consented to preside, and the following subjects will be brought forward for discussion:—

"Should Libraries be open on Sundays?"

Pro.: Miss L. Fairweather (Brighton).

Con.: H. Mew (Hove).

"Open Access."

Pro.: Miss K. Lawrence (Worthing).

Con.: Miss M. Payne (Worthing).

"Is a Printed Catalogue necessary in Open Access Libraries?"

Pro.: R. E. Smither (Brighton).

Con.: A. Webb (Brighton).

Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers (General Honorary Secretary of the Association) will then give his talk on "The Brussels—Paris—Holland Easter Schools." The Editor of the "Hove Gazette" has very kindly placed his lantern and his services as operator at our disposal.

It is hoped that as many assistants as possible will endeavour to attend and so make the meeting a success. A cordial invitation is extended to any of our London friends and others who may wish to be present. Those intending to come to this meeting are asked to notify the Hon. Sec. a few days before January 22nd.

A. CECIL PIPER,
Hon. Secretary.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

The next Meeting will be held at the Cathays Branch Library, Cardiff, on January 8th.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH MEETINGS.

The Sixth Annual Meeting will be held at the Central Library, Leeds, on Thursday, 16th January, 1913, by the kind permission of T. W. Hand, Esq., Chief Librarian.

Members will be entertained to tea by the staff of the Leeds Public Libraries, and an address will be given by **H. Rutherford Purnell**, of the *Croydon Public Libraries*, Librarian elect of the Public Library of South Australia, Editor of "The Library Assistant," on "NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIANSHIP."

By the request of the Council there will be a discussion on Mr. E. Male's paper on "Staff Interchange," which appeared in the November number of the *Assistant*, and in order that there may be a full expression of opinion on the question it raises, members are asked to make themselves thoroughly conversant with the contents of that paper.

EDITORIAL.

Our best wishes for the New Year are extended to all our readers.

The January Meeting:—Attention is drawn to the admirable arrangements for the Inaugural Meeting of the Lent and Summer term, given on our announcements page. The Fulham Libraries Staff Club have extended a cordial invitation to the Association to meet at Fulham, and it is expected that the Meeting will prove one of the most enjoyable of the Session. The members of the Paris Excursion, with their friends, are especially invited, as well as all those who are expecting to go to Holland next Easter.

The Easter School:—The first extended announcement of the Easter School and Excursion to be held in the cities and Libraries of Holland is given on another page. The programme is as full and comprehensive as it can be made, and it is expected that the outing will prove as enjoyable as its predecessors.

It is with very real regret that the present Editor relinquishes the duties connected with editing *The Library Assistant*, that have been a source of pleasure to him for so long. In bidding farewell to the many friends whom he has made through these pages, he would like to express the wish that the Journal may continue to increase in size and circulation, and particularly in the influence on the welfare of library assistants that has always had its first claim.

RESIDUAL ERRORS IN GREAT ENGLISH AUTHORS.*

By J. RENDEL HARRIS, M.A., Litt.D., LL.D.

No one is secure who ventures into print: he will either be prosecuted for what he has said, or traduced for what he has left unsaid, or made to say that which he never intended to say; and of these, the last is the most deadly, and most clinging disease. And it is so because the author is one of the sinners: his own manuscript is often untrustworthy before it gets into the hands of the printers, it is defaced in the process of reproduction, and finally, he himself is not equal to the task of rectifying those residual errors which may have escaped the eyes of the compositor and the proof reader: every one who is an author, even to the moderate extent of dictating a harmony of thought into the brain of a typist, will understand and appreciate these simple introductory thoughts. Moreover, the evil is accentuated in the case of our greatest English writer, who had the misfortune to be posthumously printed, and may perhaps, more than anyone, have the right to the prayer to be saved from his friends. A striking suggestion was once made to me that the world would have been very different if Shakespeare could have corrected his own plays; but the obvious reply was forthcoming, that in that case, quite a number of the learned fraternity would have suffered from lack of occupation.

In the present brief address, I do not propose to deal with all the residual errors in the plays of Shakespeare, nor to rob honest men of their future occupation or emoluments; to do justice to such a theme one needs to be placed like the English printer in the Napoleonic wars, who found himself on the inside of a French fortress, with no companion except the plays of Shakespeare; being a printer, as I said, and knowing the sins of his craft, he speedily detected what

*A paper read before the second Annual Meeting of the Midland Branch of the Library Assistants' Association, at Birmingham, January 31, 1912.

are called case-errors in the printing, where the compositor has picked up a letter out of a wrong compartment in the case, or perhaps found a letter wrongly placed in the case: and having before his mind the errors of contiguity in a case of type, he went through his Shakespeare, and made some splendid corrections, with which I need not burden you here. Some sort of detachment, with accompanying patience is necessary for those who would read our great authors worthily. Let us vivify the subject by a few striking examples of such residual errors as we have alluded to. We will begin with Shakespeare.

There is a well known and justly admired passage in *Romeo and Juliet*, where the young lovers are engaged in their reciprocal vows, with appropriate accompaniments, and Juliet, who is anxious not to lose Romeo from her sight, or out of her sight, longer than might be necessary, suggests the parallel of a "wanton's bird," tied by the leg, and consequently pulled back from any possible escape:

"And with a silk thread plucks it back again,
So loving-jealous of its liberty."

Whereupon Romeo remarks sympathetically,

"I would I were thy bird":

and Juliet replies ecstatically,

"Sweet, so would I:
But I should kill thee with much cherishing."

Now this incident is, as the critics say, very finely conceived; but almost every one who reads the passage without prejudice will feel that there is something wrong with the last line. Juliet clearly did not want to bring Romeo back in order to kill him; we say deliberately that nothing was, nor could have been further from her thoughts than such a catastrophe. The text must be wrong, and upon scrutinising it carefully, it is not difficult to detect (1) an error of transcription, (2) a slight residual error of punctuation. Shakespeare was in the habit of writing those long forms of the letter "s," which assimilate it to the letter "f," and kindred letters. What he really wrote was

But I should kiss thee—with much cherishing;

a short space for punctuation being allowed for the adjustment of the clauses. This is thoroughly in harmony with what we know from the rest of the play, and may I not add, from the nature of the case, to have occurred. The whole passage is now intelligible, is completely lucid, altogether forcible, and in Shakespeare's best manner. In passing away from this point, it may be remarked that any

one else who is familiar with old handwriting or with old printing will easily find parallels to confirm the emendation that I have made. A friend of my own, who was the son of a Somerset clergyman, was one day reading the lessons in his father's church from an old Bible: the subject was the prayer of the youthful King Solomon, and it was rendered as follows by the reader:

"Give now [thy servant a wife and understanding heart:"]

one can only say that if this was the original form of the prayer, it was abundantly answered, after the fashion of those prayers which obtain response, some thirty, some sixty, and some a hundredfold.

Now let us try a passage in one of the historical plays: We will take Julius Caesar; the passage to which I refer is so well known that it needs no introduction: the oration of Antony over the body of Caesar, every school boy has it by heart. In the remarks which the citizens introduce in the pauses of the great oration, there is much to remind us of our own high toned public meetings, which Shakespeare would appear to have anticipated; but something is lost to the parallel by an unfortunate printer's error, which is several times repeated. For example, the citizens talk to one another and across one another as follows:—

Sec. Cit. :—Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

Third Cit. :—There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

Fourth Cit. :—Now mark him, he begins again to speak.

Here it seems clear that the word *mark* in the last line quoted is not a verb in the imperative, but a proper name, printed without its capital letter. The fourth citizen, who enjoys a plebeian liberty of addressing favourite political leaders by their Christian names with abbreviation, (local illustration of this can be furnished on application) wishes the orator to continue his address, and calls out "Now, Mark!" or "now Mark, him!" as much as to say, it is his turn to talk; and I suspect that the word "him" is a misprint; probably it should be

Now, Mark! hush! he begins again to speak.

The correction throws a vivid light upon the political freedom of speech in ancient Rome; and I think it will be found that Shakespeare has made his fourth citizen especially free in his speech; for while the second citizen calls him Antony, and the third citizen calls him "noble Antony," the fourth citizen, as we have shown, gives him his personal and abbreviated name. I will not labour the point further:

we are accustomed to this delicacy of treatment in Shakespeare; his citizens are never a mob: they are a group of characters.

Now let us try a modern writer: a good instance is furnished by Tennyson; for, in spite of the printing and re-printing, the editing and re-editing of Tennyson's works, there are passages which still labour under the burden of unnecessary obscurity. We will take as an example the fine passage in the *Idylls of the King*, when Geraint hears the voice of Enid singing a song about Fortune and her wheel; and the poet makes the comparison of that song with the note of a bird

"Heard by the lander in a lonely isle."

The whole passage runs as follows:—

"And as the sweet voice of a bird,
Heard by the lander in a lonely isle,
Moves him to think what kind of bird it is
That sings so delicately clear, and make
Conjecture of the plumage and the form;
So the sweet voice of Enid moved Geraint."

There is only one blemish in this passage; and that is in the use of the word "lander:" it is commonly taken to mean a *person who lands*, but there is no such word in the English language, and a little reflection shows that if it were really the case of a person suddenly landed in a lonely isle, presumably after a shipwreck, the last thing such a person would be likely to attend to would be the voice of any particular singing bird. The passage must therefore have become corrupted. I propose to restore it as follows:—

And as the sweet voice of a bird,
Heard by thee, Lander, in a lonely isle, etc.

The poet is addressing a traveller, who has recently been making a long and dangerous journey across Africa. Tennyson designates Lander's famous travels in Nigeria as a journey in a lonely isle, meaning us to understand that Africa is really an island, in the closely approximate sense in which the ancient Greeks described the Morea as the island of Pelops; or, as the geography books put it, because it is, since the opening of the Suez Canal, a piece of land entirely surrounded by water.

Suppose, then, we turn ourselves to the famous Volume of Travels of R. and T. Lander, the two Cornish brothers, which is entitled "A Journal of an Expedition to explore the course and termination of the Niger;" we shall soon see whether Tennyson is exact in his reference to the solitude of the journey, or to the songs, the form and the plumage of

the strange birds which Lander actually heard and saw. Here are some illuminating passages: Vol. i., p. 65. "It is pleasant, too, after a long day's journey on foot, to be carried along so easily (in a hammock) on one's back, to see *parrots and other solemn birds* perched on the branches of very tall trees." *Ibid.*, p. 73. "It would require greater powers than we are in possession of to give an adequate description of the *magnificence, solemnity, and desolate repose, of the awful solitudes* through which we passed this evening. . . . The woods rang with *the song of insects and night-birds*, which saluted us with little intermission."

There you have the "lonely isle" and can imagine to yourselves the traveller, making conjecture of the plumage and the form of the birds to which he listened. Perhaps this may be the very passage which has inspired the poet: it certainly should have done so. In any case, the emendation is justified, for it combines the minimum of change (viz., from "the" to "thee," and a trifling alteration in the punctuation) with the maximum of added intelligibility. Richard L. Lander died in 1834, which gives Tennyson plenty of time in which to appreciate him before writing the famous Idyll of Enid and Geraint.

There is another striking case of textual corruption in the *Passing of Arthur*. When the King is placed in a barge which is to carry him to lands unknown, the poet describes the "shattered column of the King," the disorder of his locks and his armour:

" the light and lustrous curls
 were parched with dust:
 Or, clotted into points and hanging loose,
 Mix'd with the knightly growth that fringed his lips."

The picture is very well drawn, but one does not quite see why the fact that King Arthur wore a moustache should have been emphasised in such a way as to suggest that only warriors or titled persons were allowed such an embellishment. Was it meant that persons of lower degree than knighthood were compelled by law, or by custom, which is harder than law, to remove the hair from the upper lip? Or is it not simpler to suppose that we have here an oral error of transmission, which has led to the prefixing of a single letter to the word that makes the trouble? The physiologists tell us that the hair grows during sleep, and actual experience confirms the statement: it is therefore a "nightly growth" and noticeable as such. What could be more natural, then, than that the poet should make a point of a case of neglect, which was inevitable in the stress and

hurry of military movements. Observe! we do not remove the hair altogether from the portrait; we show that it was there abnormally, and when it was not to be expected. This is a beautiful and delicate elucidation, and adds much to the poetic force of the passage.

One last instance shall be taken from the writings of one of our greatest Birmingham citizens, the late Cardinal Newman. Newman is better known to fame by his having written "Lead! kindly light," than by any other of his words and works. The last line of the poem is an address to Providence, which has protected and guided him, in the form of a prayer for further and continual care:

" So long Thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
Will lead me on :
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night be gone."

The fault in this verse is that the "moor and fen" are not contiguous ideas, like the "crag and torrent"; moreover, as the guidance invoked is clearly pastoral in character, one is obliged to notice that no one takes sheep into or over fens; they may be directed on the moor, carried across the torrent, lifted from the crag, but the fen is no place for them. Correct the reading

" O'er moor and fell," etc.

This is no doubt what Newman first wrote: the mistake is an easy one: the correctness of the emendation may be seen at once on comparing another modern hymn of a somewhat similar vocabulary:

When shepherds watch their flocks by night,
And mists hang low o'er moor and fell,
Their pastoral warfare guide Thou well.

Any one can see from the rhyme, that "moor and fell" is right here; from the rhyme, that is, without other considerations. And if it is right here, we have the strongest of arguments that it must be also the reading in the former case.

NEW MEMBERS.

MEMBERS: Charles H. **Clinch**, Ealing; Miss Ethel **Giles**, Islington.

ASSOCIATE: John B. **Ladly**, Kensington.

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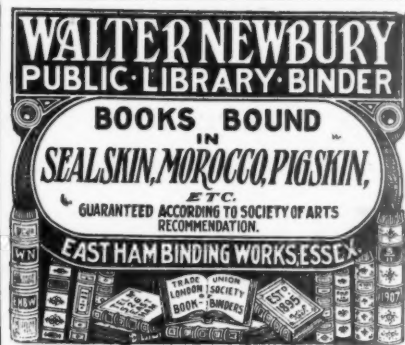
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Library Association—Examination, May 1913.

SUBJECTS FOR ESSAYS.

Section I.—**LITERARY HISTORY.** Literary criticism during the period 1784-1830, or Wordsworth's and Coleridge's theories of poetry, as set forth in Wordsworth's Prefaces and the *Biographia Literaria*.

Section II.—**BIBLIOGRAPHY.** The Essay is to take the form of a graduated course of reading, divided into three parts, Elementary, Advanced Works of Reference, with notes on each book, dealing with either the great Civil War, or English Literature in the age of Dr. Johnson.

Section III.—**CLASSIFICATION.** Prepare a scheme of Classification for a library of about 10,000 volumes in Philosophy and Religion, using Dewey's Decimal Classification, or Brown's Subject, or Cutter's Expansive systems, shewing the main divisions; and then write a Preface, explaining to the public the nature of the Classification, and the method of using it.

Section IV.—**CATALOGUING.** Compare Cutter's Cataloguing Rules with the Joint Anglo-American Code.

Section V.—**LIBRARY HISTORY AND ORGANISATION.** Book Collectors of the Victorian Era.

Section VI.—**LIBRARY ROUTINE.** Reference Libraries for Business Men.

NOTE.—Subject for Special Examination in Section II., parts 2 and 3, on 10th January, 1913—A course of Reading (as above Section II.) on the French Revolution, or English Literature, 1784-1830.

All particulars from Dr. E. A. Baker, Hon. Secretary to the Education Committee, 24, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

HOLLAND NEXT!

So much success has attended the First and Second Easter Schools that many members look forward to the Third, the

EASTER SCHOOL IN HOLLAND

Full particulars of which appear in this issue. The Committee

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INCREASING FACILITIES FOR BORROWING BOOKS.*

By W. GEORGE FRY, of the Bournemouth Public Libraries.

When invited to contribute a paper on the above subject I naturally asked myself which was the most interesting, as well as the most suggestive way of approaching it, and as you will see, decided upon an evolutionary treatment, and trust that the object in view has been achieved. To treat such a subject historically is to endeavour to demonstrate the *raison d'être* of the increasing appreciation of our efforts to assist those who know the advantages our libraries offer for acquiring knowledge, and to show the relation to increased borrowing facilities. Some years ago it would have been almost impossible to offer any thoughts on the subject, for "facilities" were then practically unknown, the only topic at all relevant might have been suggested by the word "restrictions."

Many were the prohibitions inserted in the rules by the earlier library authorities. Borrowers were regarded with suspicion, and most of the regulations were framed with the object of threatening would-be thieves, and those who take a delight in spoiling and destroying public property. They were evidently supposed to exist in large numbers; that they are now entirely non-existent cannot be affirmed, but we recognize that the public may be trusted to a much greater extent, and thus facilities have been increased. At this point will you please pardon a slight digression to emphasize the importance of punishing offending borrowers. The laxity of authorities in this respect accounts for many of the offences committed, whereas an example now and again would teach the necessary lesson to the few, and gain the co-operation of the great majority, whose desire is the protection of their property. The patronizing tone of the old rules is partly accounted for by the inexperience of those responsible for their compilation. As in every phase of human endeavour experience has been the most potent force in the evolution of common-sense ideas, so it has been with book-issuing. The old impediments to progress have been discarded in all well administered libraries. They included the age limit of 15 or 16; three days (or more) notice before issuing tickets—which, of course, should be done immediately, after applicant's form has been thoroughly examined

*Paper read before a Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association, at 24, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., November 13th, 1912.

and checked; less than 14 days in which to read and return books; payment for tickets or application forms; allowing one volume only at a time; refusing to exchange books on the day of issue; and allowing books only to ratepayers, thereby turning away the majority—the resident non-ratepayers and non-resident employees, who are among those whom the libraries benefit the most. Since these days a wider and more helpful view has been taken, and a revision of the rules and regulations has taken place generally. There are still, however, some libraries where the old order is kept and guarded with almost sacred devotion, where “red tape” and lack of common-sense reign supreme. There is, too, in many excellent library systems a vice of consistency: individual circumstances are not always sufficiently considered.

The idea of issuing student's tickets, which was the outcome of a suggestion by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, has been partly responsible for the general decline in the fiction percentage. This desirable condition has also been enhanced by the issue of an unlimited—but reasonable—number of tickets for teachers and other bona-fide students, and the result of such an accommodating feature is the great increase in the utility of the library. With the growth of extension work has come a corresponding increase in the number of students using the libraries. Extra tickets are allowed to all who attend University Extension, library, and other lectures; so that it is evident that we are no longer merely custodians of books, rigorously ascertaining that no borrower has more than his share of tickets, taking pains to make sure that no student has more tickets than the person who reads only light and recreative literature. No, our aim is to guide, to stimulate and encourage those who require aid in their studies. In this way Reading Circles often enjoy special privileges, by the acquisition of the books recommended, which were not otherwise to be found in the library. Holiday makers also are sometimes allowed to take a selection of books on the district in which the holiday is to be spent, that the fullest intellectual and physical benefits may be obtained.

One cannot help sympathizing with the people who live in an “irrecoverably dark” world, and to feel pleasure at the thought that by the circulation of embossed literature it is sometimes within the power of the public library to lighten the burden of this unfortunate section of the community. But, at the same time, one must remember that they were not considered when the Library Acts were

framed, and the rate limit imposed. A special grant would be necessary to maintain an adequate supply of embossed literature, and, owing to the great amount of accommodation necessary to shelve a fairly representative Blind Library, and the great cost of the volumes, it is considered more advantageous to the users and the library to subscribe to a National Library for a constantly changing supply. The Library Association has recently issued a report on the subject, which will probably be the means of exploiting further facilities.

Progress has ordained that where branch libraries exist tickets shall be interchangeable. This, of course, besides being quite reasonable, is easy of administration. It is a simple matter to arrange that a borrower may use his ticket at the central or any of the branches, according to his requirements or convenience, and yet *this* great innovation is not general! More complicating, however, is the question of inter-branch loans, although some librarians affirm a satisfactory solution of this difficulty. That a borrower should wish to take out a book at the central, and return it to a branch is quite understandable, but charging difficulties, and not lack of sympathy, account for the unpopularity of this facility among librarians. It cannot be considered a very simple matter, if used to any great extent, to have to take in a book issued at another library, to charge the book issued in its place to the other branch, to return the book and get the borrower's ticket, and insert it in the proper place; and although it is a very desirable consummation, a great disadvantage would be incurred in dealing with recalcitrant borrowers, who thus might dodge all records of fines unpaid, and of final notices *re* renewal of tickets, and many other things which will readily occur to those with experience in book charging. Less useful, perhaps, but usually considered to be more easily managed, is the system of sending books from one branch to another for the use of borrowers. By co-operation with the Tramways Manager one library at least is able to supply a borrower at a branch with a book from the central (or another branch) twenty minutes after he has bespoken it by telephone, and without any costs. Incidentally, this serves to show the great utility, and necessity of telephonic communication between branches. Where tickets are interchangeable, even if there are no other interchangeable facilities, it should be possible to call up the library required, and to enquire whether a particular book is in, and, if so, to ask that it may be reserved for the borrower who requested the information;

thus saving him, very often, a useless journey. Wherever these interchangeable facilities are in force it is desirable that different books should be stocked at the branches. This is a point worth emphasizing. The classics must, of course, be duplicated, as must all popular and quick reference books, but it is quickly seen that more good can be accomplished by stocking, for example, Gray's "Anatomy" at the East Branch and Quain's "Anatomy" at the West Branch, than by purchasing two copies of either. It gives a greater intrinsic value to the libraries; a value that is not illustrated by the number of volumes.

So far have we advanced, but further developments are anticipated. Suggestions have been put forward by eminent librarians, which would result in the utilization of a large number of books which are now rarely, if ever used, but under the present system exist apparently for the purpose of collecting dust.

The first suggestion of general inter-library loans seems to have emanated from America. This was a contribution by Mr. Green to the "Library Journal" in 1876. The forerunner of this policy will be the welding together of the libraries of the Metropolis, and, judging by the present tendency of opinion, co-operation between the London libraries will take place at no very remote date. Already the experiment has been tried, and some libraries have formed groups, taking advantage of the increased resources, to the great benefit of the borrowers. It is conceded by all that further facilities are necessary. A library in an adjoining borough is often nearer to those living in proximity to the boundary than the one in the borough in which they reside, but borrowing facilities are barred to all those who are outside the pale. Thus it frequently happens that a particular book, obtainable in the library of the neighbouring borough, is not to be procured in one's own borough, and, in such cases, much opportunity of valuable assistance is lost. Some system of co-ordination is deemed necessary by many of the librarians of London, in fact, it has been suggested that a definite policy should be decided upon, and that London libraries should be treated as branches under the control of the County Council. For this a Union Catalogue and a Union Borrowers' Register would, of course, be necessary. This, and the difficulties of duplication, etc., are among the great drawbacks to the scheme, which otherwise admits of great possibilities, as would its adoption in the provinces. One great, almost insurmountable disadvantage, however, is the variety of systems of administration—rules,

catalogues, classifications, and charging—and although not advocating what might be termed impossible, viz., a general stereotyped system (impossible, owing to the exigencies of funds, space, and circumstances) there is no doubt that the multiplicity of systems is antagonistic to an ideal method of inter-library loans. If a uniform way of compilation, printing, and keeping catalogues up-to-date were established, each library might possess the catalogues of other libraries, and a borrower requiring a book not in the library where he enquires might be supplied, after search had been made through the various catalogues, from the nearest library containing it. Such a scheme offers every advantage to borrowers (they might, probably would, complain at having to pay postage, in the case of postal requisitions!), but in actual practice it might not work so smoothly. Some libraries would purchase scarcely any books at all, working on the principle that if a particular book was wanted it could easily be procured elsewhere; they would not buy books themselves unless absolutely necessary, but would exist merely as parasites, and from them the majority of requests would come. Nevertheless, there is an unnecessary duplication of books, especially of expensive books, going on. Special postal terms could probably be arranged for the transmission of books, and insurance on parcels of books has already been effected at a low rate. At present we are a body of independent units: some rational and national system of correlation is necessary. Especially does this apply to reference departments, and although barely within the scope of this paper, (except perhaps, the policy of loaning out Reference Library books), it might be helpful to consider on what lines reform in this direction is contemplated. To prevent unnecessary duplication in the London public libraries the suggestion, at least 100 years old, of a Central Reference Library has been revived, where all expensive books that do not come into the category of quick reference books and standard works would, in future, be stored, thus relieving the book fund of individual libraries to a large extent, by the prevention of unnecessary purchases. For the present stocks this institution would take the form of a "clearing house," where all requests for books would be made, and copies of catalogues stocked. The author of this scheme might also with advantage have applied the principle to other counties. Many copies of expensive books are purchased by library authorities, when one copy would satisfy the requirements of a group of libraries. Methods of charging (such as

open-access), and their relative merits, scarcely come within the scope of our subject this evening.

The advancement in borrowing facilities can be traced to three causes, viz., the experience of those in authority, the increase in professional education, and the revolt of borrowers against the restrictions imposed. There can be no fear for the future, owing to the greatly increasing professional qualifications of the officials who are to be the librarians of to-morrow. In this work the Education Committee of the Library Association are the sowers, and the harvest will follow naturally in due season.

PROCEEDINGS.

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

The Second Meeting of the Eighteenth Session was held at the Chambers of the Library Association, 24, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Wednesday, November 13, 1912, at 7.30 p.m. The chair was occupied by the President, and there were present over 40 members and friends, including several members of the South Coast Branch. After the formal business, the President, in a few words, welcomed the South Coast members, and then called on Mr. George R. Bolton to read the paper, by Mr. W. GEORGE FRY, of the Bournemouth Public Libraries, on "Increasing Facilities for Borrowing Books," which appears on p. 11.

This was followed by a paper by Mr. A. CECIL PIPER, of the Brighton Public Library, on "Non-Resident Borrowers," which it is hoped will appear in *The Library Assistant* later. Mr. Piper met with a hearty reception on rising to deliver the paper, and following it there was an active discussion on the two papers, in which Messrs. Sandry (West Ham), Dixon (Croydon), Smither (Brighton), the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Miss Fairweather (Brighton), Miss Gerard (Worthing), and Mr. J. D. Young (Greenwich) took part.

The Hon. Secretary then read the paper entitled "The Public Library and the Cheap Book," by Mr. NORMAN TRELIVING, of the Leeds Public Library, which, with the discussion, was published in the December number of the *Journal* (p. 225). Votes of thanks to the readers of the papers concluded a most interesting and enthusiastic gathering.

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

The December General Meeting was held at 24, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on Wednesday, 11th December, at 7.30 p.m. THE PRESIDENT (Mr. Henry T. Coutts) occupied the chair, and the attendance—small probably because of the season—was between thirty and forty.

THE PRESIDENT delivered the following brief Memorial Oration on

EDWARD EDWARDS.

It is difficult for us who live in the present day when nearly every borough or district in the United Kingdom having any pretension to size or importance has its rate-supported library, to imagine the time when these libraries did not exist; yet we have only to go back to the middle of the nineteenth century to find the beginning of libraries freely accessible to the

general public. Present-day readers are accustomed to look on the public library as a matter of course, and give no thought to the genesis of the movement; to them the name of Edward Edwards is unknown. It is meet, therefore, that librarians and others particularly interested in the library movement should, at this time, honour the memory of Edwards publicly, especially in view of the fact that little encouragement or recognition of his work was accorded to him by his professional contemporaries.

Few men have done so much to benefit their fellow-men, and have received so little recognition as Edward Edwards. Doubtless the modest character of the man had much to do with this seeming lack of appreciation on the part of his fellows; but, when it is recalled that it was not until the sixteenth anniversary of his death that a monument was erected to mark his grave, and that monument was erected by a library enthusiast outside the profession, it is difficult fully to acquit our professional fathers from the charge of indifference.

Edwards was born on the 14th December, 1812, probably in London. His father was Anthony Turner Edwards, a builder. Little is known of his early life, but, in view of the work he was able to accomplish afterwards, it is evident that he must have possessed intellectual talents far above the average.

Most of those present at this meeting will be familiar with Edwards' literary works, and it is hardly necessary for me to remind you that he was essentially a literary man. After becoming familiar with the work of the British Museum as a reader, he was, at the age of twenty-three, called before the Parliamentary Commission of enquiry into its administration. In February, 1839, he was appointed a supernumerary assistant at the British Museum, and was included in the committee of five which drew up the ninety-one cataloguing rules of the British Museum. In 1847 he published in the *British Quarterly Review* an article on "Public Libraries in London and Paris," and in the following year he contributed a paper entitled a "Statistical View of Public Libraries" to the *Transactions of the Statistical Society of London*. This latter paper induced Mr. Ewart to enter into a correspondence with him, which shortly afterwards led to the formation of a Parliamentary Committee on Public Libraries, and the passing into law of the first of the Libraries Acts.

The great earnestness and enthusiasm of Edwards in the cause of establishing libraries for the people is seen in the evidence which he gave before the Parliamentary Committees of 1849 and 1850. An excellent digest of this evidence is given in Greenwood's *Life of Edwards*. In the course of his evidence, on April 19th, 1849, Edwards stated that he had been an assistant in the Department of Printed Books at the British Museum between ten and eleven years. Little reference is made to him in the Report, but it is recorded in a blue book that "the thanks of the Committee are especially due to Mr. Edwards of the British Museum, who has not only devoted a large portion of his time to the subject, but supplied to the Committee the result of his inquiries and his experience during many years."

The work of Edwards in establishing public libraries is to some extent overshadowed by the labours of William Ewart and Joseph Brotherton. Without wishing to belittle the splendid work of these two politicians, who were mainly instrumental in securing the passage of the first of the Libraries Acts through Parliament, it must be remembered that they were very largely indebted to Edwards, the man behind the scenes, for their information.

In May, 1850, Edwards severed his official connexion with the British Museum, and towards the end of the same year was appointed as librarian and adviser to a Local Committee, which had been formed in Manchester for the purpose of adopting the new Public Libraries Act, and establishing a public library. In 1852 the Act was adopted, and he became Manchester's

first public librarian at the inadequate salary of £200 per annum, but held the position only for seven years. Edward Edwards possessed most of the qualities of the ideal librarian, but he appears to have lacked the important qualities of tact and a sense of humour. His appointment at the British Museum terminated rather abruptly, and disagreements with the Manchester Libraries' Committee resulted in his resignation from the librarianship. As Dr. Richard Garnett expressed it: "There was something in the man's nature which disqualified him for harmonious co-operation with superior authorities." The termination of his service at Manchester was regrettable from the point of view of the library as well as from a personal aspect. While at Manchester Edwards accomplished much useful work, and organized the library on lines that have been followed in many respects by public librarians subsequently.

After leaving Manchester he did not obtain any employment of a permanent nature, although he applied, in 1865, for the librarianship of the Guildhall Library. He was engaged for about eight years in compiling a calendar of the Carte MSS. in the Bodleian Library, and from 1870 to 1876 he classified and catalogued the library of Queen's College, Oxford.

The last years of Edwards' life were spent in the quaint old-fashioned village of Niton, in the Isle of Wight. There he lived the life of a recluse. He was in receipt of a Civil List pension of £80 per annum, granted him in 1883, out of which he had to lodge and dress himself, pay for the printing of his books, and help to support his surviving sister. His closing days were clouded by extreme poverty, but his proud nature rebelled against asking for the help so sorely needed, which doubtless would have been given him by friends had his straitened circumstances been known. On February 7th, 1886, Edward Edwards, the chief pioneer and founder of municipal public libraries, passed to his rest, and on February 10th he was buried in the churchyard at Niton. Sixteen years afterwards a granite monument was erected by Thomas Greenwood to mark his grave, and this was inaugurated on February 7th, 1902, in the presence of a number of librarians and villagers.

At the conclusion the members rose as a tribute to the memory of Edwards.

The conclusion of the Proceedings at the December Meeting is unavoidably held over till next month.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

Members of the Midland Branch spent a most enjoyable half-day at Lichfield on Thursday, November 28th. The Cathedral was first visited, the party being met there by Councillor W. A. Wood, Chairman of the Johnson House Committee and one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Johnson Society, who had very kindly made all arrangements for the visit of the Branch. Councillor Harradine acted as guide to the party over the Cathedral, and members were delighted with its architectural beauty, the magnificent stained glass windows and wonderful carving. Having made a complete circuit of the body of the Cathedral, the party repaired to its Library, many of the treasures of which were exhibited by the Sub-Librarian, Rev. E. Bradley. An illuminated MS. edition of Chaucer, and an old MS. catalogue of the Library—the first one compiled—proved particularly interesting, and many other rare old books and MSS. were examined.

The Public Library and Museum were next visited, where Mr. A. D. Parker proved a most competent conductor in pointing out the many objects of interest housed in the latter. The Library, although not large, contains a number of valuable books, notably several folio works on architecture. The party then proceeded to Johnson House, where Councillor Wood, who has

charge of the collection of books and Johnsonian relics preserved there, gave the histories of many of them, as well as much interesting information respecting the great dictionary-maker and his family. A very interesting time was spent in this house, which, as the birthplace of the greatest of her sons, is one of Lichfield's proudest possessions.

After leaving Johnson House, tea, kindly provided by Councillor Wood, was taken at a neighbouring restaurant, and members then made their way to the Guildhall for the evening meeting, at which Mrs. Wood and the Mayor of Lichfield, Councillor H. J. C. Winterton, were present. After a little formal business, COUNCILLOR WOOD delivered his paper on "Dr. Johnson's Dictionary." He gave a very interesting account of the production of the "Dictionary," illustrating his remarks with readings from some of Johnson's letters, including his famous epistle to Lord Chesterfield. Johnson's quarrel with that nobleman, his dealings with his publishers, anecdotes of his humorous replies to friendly queries and less amiable criticisms respecting his great work, were delightfully related by Councillor Wood. He then proceeded to discuss in detail the "Dictionary" itself, and brought to light many interesting and entertaining facts respecting it, some of which caused considerable laughter. He concluded by drawing attention to a remarkable discovery which he had made in connection with the definition of the letter "H" in the first edition of the "Dictionary." In the course of this definition it is stated that "H" "seldom, perhaps never, begins any but the first syllable" [of a word]. As the result of his attention being drawn to such words as apprehension, comprehension, etc., Johnson modified the definition in the third edition of the "Dictionary," but, as far as Councillor Wood had been able to ascertain by diligent searching in many copies of the "Dictionary" and editions of Boswell, none of Johnson's commentators has previously noticed that the definition itself contains a striking contradiction of the dictum laid down in it, in the case of the word "perhaps."

After some remarks from the Chairman and other members of the Branch, the proceedings were concluded with very hearty votes of thanks to Councillor Wood for his splendid paper and his great kindness in arranging the programme, to the Mayor of Lichfield for kindly permitting the Branch to make use of the Guildhall, and to Councillor Harradine, Rev. E. Bradley and Mr. A. D. Parker for their kindness in acting as guides at the various places of interest visited.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

A most successful meeting was held on Wednesday, December 11th, at the Central Library, Cardiff, Mr. R. G. Williams presiding. MR. WYNDHAM MORGAN delivered a lantern lecture entitled *OUR INTERNATIONAL EXCURSIONS: BRUSSELS-PARIS-HOLLAND*, to a large and appreciative audience. He described the visits paid by the Library Assistants' Easter School to Brussels and Paris in 1911 and 1912, and gave an outline of the expected programme for the visit to Holland in 1913. Votes of thanks to the Central Association for the loan of slides and albums, and to Mr. Rees for manipulating the lantern were cordially carried. A gratifying statement was made by the Hon. Secretary to the effect that eight assistants had applied for membership cards.

THE EDWARD EDWARDS CENTENARY DINNER IN MANCHESTER.

To the Council of the Library Assistants' Association.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In response to your kind invitation to represent you at the Edward Edwards Centenary Celebrations in Manchester, I was present, in company

with the President (Mr. H. T. Coutts), at the dinner given at the Town Hall there on Friday evening, the 13th inst., by the Chairman and Members of the Public Libraries Committee. The Lord Mayor occupied the chair, and the guests included the Mayors of Stockport and Eccles, Mr. C. W. Sutton (the Chief Librarian), Mr. Madeley (Warrington), Mr. G. T. Shaw (Liverpool), Dr. E. A. Baker, Mr. H. Bond (St. Pancras), Mr. H. Guppy (Rylands' Library), Mr. H. Jones (Kensington), Mr. T. W. Hand (Leeds), Mr. H. T. Coutts (President of the Library Assistants' Association), Miss Burstall (Girls' High School), and others.

The toast of the memory of Edward Edwards was proposed by Alderman Plummer (Chairman of the Manchester Libraries Committee), who, in an exceedingly able speech, referred to Edwards as one of the greatest of "the forgotten benefactors of humanity." After touching briefly on the chief events in his career, the speaker rendered full acknowledgement of Manchester's debt to Edwards, and expressed the great regret which he was sure must be felt by all that only such a tardy recognition as the present celebration had been made.

Mr. Councillor Abbott proposed "The Public Library Movement" in a characteristically virile speech, and in reply Mr. Madeley and Mr. Sutton reviewed briefly the past as they had known it, and spoke hopefully of the future. Other speeches followed, including one in the brisk racy style which is always associated with Sir William Bailey, and one as a response from Miss Burstall, whose cultured geniality was appreciated by all. It was generally felt that by the event a worthy tribute had been made to the memory of a great man, and in that tribute I esteem it an honour to have shared on your behalf.

Permit me to express my thanks for your kind invitation to represent you.

NORMAN TRELIVING,
Honorary Secretary,
Yorkshire Branch.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

*BARBER, MR. GEORGE A., of the Kingston-on-Thames Public Library, has been appointed assistant in the Coventry Public Libraries.

BROMLEY, MISS, of the Islington Public Libraries, has been appointed Librarian of the Children's Department, Hampstead Public Libraries, in succession to Miss Funnell.

*FREER, MR. PERCY, Senior Assistant in the Walsall Public Library, has been appointed Senior Assistant in the Leeds University Libraries.

*FUNNELL, MISS H. A., of the Hampstead Public Libraries, has been appointed assistant in the British Library of Political Science, London School of Economics.

PRICE, MR. FRANK, Assistant in the Kidderminster Public Library, has been appointed Chief Assistant, Walsall Public Library.

*PURNELL, MR. H. RUTHERFORD, Librarian-in-Charge of the Croydon Central Lending Library, Honorary Editor of *The Library Assistant*, has been appointed Librarian to the Public Library of South Australia at Adelaide. He expects to sail about the middle of February.

*RICHMOND, MISS A. C. M., of the British Library of Political Science, has been appointed Librarian of the British Institute of Social Service.

*Member, L.A.A.



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All communications relating to this journal should be addressed to MR. H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL, The Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

All communications relating to the Library Assistants' Association should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, MR. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon, from whom particulars of membership and the objects of the Association can be obtained.

The address of the Association's Library is the Central Library, 68, Holloway Road, Islington, N. (MISS OLIVE E. CLARKE, Honorary Librarian).

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